



FAITH
IN ACTION

Call for Proposals

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is offering new grants to expand *Faith in Action*, an interfaith volunteer caregiving program that helps to better the lives of people with long-term health needs.



The *Faith in Action*® program was founded on the ideal of community volunteerism, of neighbors helping neighbors. With more Americans living longer lives, many of us face the challenge of caring for a family member, neighbor, or friend who suffers from arthritis, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's, AIDS, or other long-term health conditions.

Starting in 1983 with the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program, and continuing in 1993 with the introduction of *Faith in Action*, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® has supported faith-based community efforts to help meet this challenge with volunteer caregivers. These efforts have helped to build over 1,100 interfaith volunteer caregiving programs across the country.

The Foundation is committed to expanding this network by supporting the development of 2,000 more *Faith in Action* coalitions. In addition to providing start-up grants, the Foundation's *Faith in Action* program will offer these new coalitions significant technical support and advice on how to develop successful, sustainable caregiving programs that can serve their communities for many years to come.

We are there for you...just as you are there for your neighbors.





Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Edith Cobb, a 75-year-old great grandmother, volunteers with a North Philadelphia *Faith in Action* coalition of 11 congregations that brings together volunteers who are 55 and older with the parents of children who have special needs. Edith spends a few hours each Saturday with 7-year-old Racquel, who suffers from a severe developmental disorder, and her mother, Rosalyn. Edith has shared with Racquel her love of music, and she offers Rosalyn a sympathetic ear as well as practical parenting advice. “Being with Racquel and her mother helps me. It makes me feel good, and it keeps me going,” says Edith.

Orlando, Florida

Carolyn Ragans is a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, a *Faith in Action* coalition of 13 congregations, in Orlando, Florida. Carolyn visited with Martin and Edith Feuerstein once a week, giving Martin a much-needed breather in his daily routine of caring for his ailing wife. Since Edith moved to a nursing home, Martin and Carolyn still get together for lunch. Says Martin, "Now that I'm all by myself, and I don't have much company, Carolyn is a big help when she talks to me. I don't think anybody could be nicer."



What does *Faith in Action* offer?

- Start-up grants of \$35,000 for a 30-month period to help communities organize new coalitions for volunteer caregiving.
- Technical assistance on coalition building, board development, program management, strategic planning, volunteer recruitment and training, communications, and fundraising.
- The support of a nationwide network of *Faith in Action* coalitions.

Find out how you can apply on page 8.

Additional information can be found on the *Faith in Action* Web site: www.FIAVolunteers.org

Greeley, Colorado

What are the five building blocks of a *Faith in Action* coalition?

- *Interfaith.* Coalition members must include religious congregations that reflect the diversity of the community served by the program.
- *Volunteer.* The individuals providing services must be volunteers.
- *Caregiving.* The focus of the program is on informal caregiving – tasks such as transportation, shopping, and companionship – rather than activities such as education, mentoring, health screening, or professional medical care.
- *Chronic illness or disability.* Volunteer services are provided for people of all ages with long-term health problems.
- *Homebased.* The spirit of the program is to serve the community at large. The primary focus of service is where people reside.

At 17, Rosanna Munoz has discovered the rewards of volunteering. Through a *Faith in Action* program that includes multiple religious congregations, she and her classmates from an alternative high school play bingo once a month with senior citizens in Greeley, Colorado. The bingo program is a chance for these seniors to play one of their favorite games and spend time with lively teenagers who enjoy their company. “We look forward to seeing them every month,” says Caroline Schmidt, 97. “We sure would miss them if they didn’t come.”





Raleigh, North Carolina

Bill Brantley, a 65-year-old former executive, needed help taking care of his extensive North Carolina rose garden. His 18-year struggle with AIDS often leaves him too tired for the 3-hour daily watering and chores. Fortunately, Sharri Gaines and other volunteers with the Triangle AIDS Interfaith Network, a *Faith in Action* coalition of 43 congregations, pick up the watering can when Bill can't. For Bill, Sharri has become like family. Sharri benefits too. "It feels good to know that you matter to somebody, and I know that I matter to Bill. I've learned how one phone call or one visit to Bill makes such a difference in a world where you don't always know if your actions make a difference."

Middletown, New York

Twenty-eight year old Valerie Malone is just one of 50 developmentally disabled people in Middletown, New York, who shop for 25 older, disabled men and women who can't shop for themselves. The program is sponsored by the Jewish Family Service of Orange County, a 15-group *Faith in Action* coalition that includes seven community organizations, seven churches, and one synagogue. Every week, Valerie, along with other volunteers, goes to the apartment of 83-year-old Adeline "Addie" Whitley to pick up her grocery list. "I really am alone," Addie explains. "When these girls come to do my shopping, it opens another door. It reminds me that I'm alive."





What do volunteers do?

Faith in Action volunteers help in any number of ways. They may choose to provide transportation to the doctor's office, or to other appointments. They may shop for groceries, cook meals, do light housework, run errands, or simply phone or visit those who are homebound and lonely because of a long-term health problem. Volunteers may also provide some relief for those who care for a homebound family member. In some cases, *Faith in Action* volunteers can mean the difference between living independently and living in a health care facility by providing help with simple everyday things.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

LeRoy Grube, 82, volunteers twice a week as a driver for the meals-on-wheels program in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, through a *Faith in Action* program that includes eight faith congregations. LeRoy explains, "Forty years ago older people would live with their daughters and sons and were taken care of in that way. But today, that's all different. The children and grandchildren move away, or the husband and wife both work and don't have time to care for the older people. The people who get these meals – you can't imagine how happy they are when I walk up to the door. I feel it's a necessity and I enjoy doing it."

How to Apply for a Grant

What does a *Faith in Action* coalition do?

Faith in Action coalitions bring together religious congregations of many faiths, and other community organizations such as hospices, clinics, and hospitals, in a common mission to provide volunteer care to their neighbors in need. These interfaith programs provide volunteer services, care, and companionship to people of all ages and faiths who are homebound because of long-term health problems, as well as respite to family caregivers. *Faith in Action* coalitions recruit, train, and mobilize volunteers; form governing boards; hire directors to organize, manage, and promote the program's work; and raise the funds necessary to sustain and expand their programs over time.

Why is the Foundation offering *Faith in Action* grants?

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is offering \$35,000 start-up grants and technical assistance to help communities organize new *Faith in Action* coalitions. Over time, the Foundation is seeking to expand the existing *Faith in Action* network by adding up to 2,000 new coalitions for volunteer caregiving that will serve people of all ages and faiths with long-term health problems.

Who is eligible to apply for a *Faith in Action* grant?

Grants are made to coalitions established by faith congregations (including churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, and other groups with religious missions), as well as by other volunteer organizations or social or health service

provider agencies that can demonstrate the participation of faith denominations in the proposed program. Applications are welcome from those who wish to create a new coalition, as well as from existing interfaith coalitions that wish to develop a *Faith in Action* program.

Applicant organizations must be tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and not classified as a private foundation under Section 509(a). For more information, please contact the *Faith in Action* National Program Office at Wake Forest University School of Medicine:

- phone (toll free): 877-324-8411
- fax: 336-716-3346
- FIA@wfubmc.edu
- www.FIAVolunteers.org

What are the characteristics of Faith in Action coalitions?

Faith in Action coalitions should include a range of religious congregations that is broadly representative of the faith denominations within the community. Other organizations, such as social service agencies, civic organizations, and hospitals are also encouraged to participate.

In addition, coalitions:

- Recruit volunteers from all walks of life. A commitment to helping others is the most important requirement for Faith in Action volunteers; formal ties with religious organizations in the community are not required to become a volunteer. In keeping with the interfaith nature of the program, proselytizing is not permitted.

- Organize and train volunteers to provide supportive services to homebound individuals who are frail and elderly or affected by long-term health problems. Supportive services include providing transportation to doctor's appointments, shopping for groceries, cooking meals, doing light housework, running errands, or simply phoning or visiting those who are homebound and lonely because of a long-term health problem. Volunteers may also provide some relief for those who care for a homebound family member.

Whom do volunteers help?

Faith in Action volunteers provide assistance to the growing number of people with long-term health problems, including those who are frail and elderly, hospice patients, children with disabilities, and people who suffer from such conditions as arthritis, diabetes, cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, and Alzheimer's disease. Volunteers may also provide respite for family caregivers.

Why do congregations participate in *Faith in Action* coalitions?

Many faith congregations already reach out to people in need. However, *Faith in Action* coalitions can greatly strengthen these efforts by providing:

- Ongoing assistance in organizing outreach to the homebound.
- Training for group leaders who oversee this outreach effort.
- Training for volunteers serving the homebound.
- Help with locating homebound people who have lost touch with their community.
- Help with recruiting volunteers from both inside and outside the congregation.
- Linkage to medical and social services in the community.
- Additional services, such as insurance coverage for volunteers.

- Serve people of all ages and faiths who suffer from long-term health problems of all kinds, ensuring that no person is denied participation as a volunteer or recipient of services for reasons based on age, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Develop a system for making referrals to, and receiving referrals from, local hospitals, hospices, visiting nurse agencies, and other service providers. (*Faith in Action* programs should complement existing services, not replace or compete with them.)
- Establish a Board of Directors (or, in the case of agency applicants, a special advisory board) for the program. Such Boards typically have 12 to 15 members, including religious leaders or designated

congregational representatives reflecting the coalition, community leaders, health care and social service providers, and individuals with communications and fundraising expertise who can serve other important roles in moving the program forward and sustaining it.

- Employ a full-time, paid program director who will work with religious institutions, develop relationships with community organizations, and manage the recruitment, training, and other activities necessary to support *Faith in Action* volunteers.
- Plan to secure additional resources over and above the Foundation's start-up funds (including in-kind support for such items as office space and furniture) during the program's first 18 months of operation.

How are programs selected for funding?

Proposed programs will be evaluated on how well they meet the expectations outlined in this Call for Proposals. The Foundation will give special consideration to proposed programs designed to reach low-income or underserved communities. In addition, applicants are encouraged to involve volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life.

How are grants paid?

Grants of \$35,000 each for a 30-month period will be awarded in two phases: an initial payment of \$25,000 will be made to support the first 18 months of the program; release of the final \$10,000 payment will be dependent upon the program's progress during the first year, including evidence of funding from sources other than the Foundation that can help sustain the program on a permanent basis.

In certain cases, the size of grants may differ depending upon the applicant's resource needs and proposed scope of work.

What can grant funds be used for?

Foundation funds can be used toward the salary of the coalition program director, for basic operating expenses in setting up the *Faith in Action* program coordinating office, for specific communications activities, and other program development activities. Foundation funds may not be used for capital improvements, purchase of vehicles, or other large equipment purchases.



Liliane Clement,

an 84-year-old retired physician, was forced to give up reading when she lost her eyesight. Now Liliane catches up on her favorite topics when Sally Elliott reads to her. Sally is a volunteer with a *Faith in Action* coalition in Verde Valley, Arizona, that provides services to homebound adults.

How can I get an application?

Write for an application packet to:

Faith in Action Program
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
PO Box 2316
Princeton, NJ 08543-2316

Or call, fax, or e-mail your request to:

- phone (toll free): 877-324-8411
- fax: 336-716-3346
- FIA@wfubmc.edu

Applications will be reviewed on a four-month cycle. Submission deadlines are:

- February 1
- June 1
- October 1

Decisions regarding funding requests will usually be made within 90 days after the submission deadline.

How can I get help?

To help you determine whether your program is eligible for consideration, or to guide you on any aspect of planning and running a *Faith in Action* program, please contact the *Faith in Action* National Program Office at Wake Forest University School of Medicine:

- phone (toll free): 877-324-8411
- fax: 336-716-3346
- FIA@wfubmc.edu

Additional information on the program, including answers to frequently asked questions, can be found on the *Faith in Action* Web site at www.FIAVolunteers.org

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care. It concentrates its grantmaking in four goal areas:

- to assure that all Americans have access to basic health care at reasonable cost;
- to improve the care and support for people with chronic health conditions;
- to promote healthy communities and lifestyles; and
- to reduce the personal, social, and economic harm caused by substance abuse – tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.



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*Faith in Action
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